CLAIM AMENDMENTS

(added text shown with underlining; deleted text shown by ~~strikethrough~~)

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A peptide comprising the amino acid sequence: ~~selected from~~

~~a)~~ $PX^1X^2X^3T$ [SEQ.ID.NO.:1]~~;~~

~~b) PSX^4S [SEQ.ID.NO.:2];~~

~~c) $QX^5X^6X^7Q$ [SEQ.ID.NO.:3];~~

~~d) SX^8S [SEQ.ID.NO.:4],~~

wherein X^1, X^2, and X^3 may be the same or different, and each represents an amino acid residue

~~X^4 represents an amino acid residue; and~~

~~X^5 and X^7, which may be the same or different, each represents an amino acid residue,~~

~~X^6 represents an amino acid residue having an amide side chain; and~~

~~X^8 represent an amino acid having an aliphatic side chain~~, with the proviso that the peptide ~~comprising an amino acid sequence of SEQ.ID.NO.:1, 2, 3 OR 4~~ is not a naturally-occurring full length protein.

2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The peptide according to claim 1 wherein (i) X^2 is selected from the group consisting of ~~represents~~ N ~~or~~ and L, (ii) X^1 is selected from the group consisting of S, A, and P, and (iii) X^3 is selected from the group consisting of S, K, T, and A.

3.-11. (CANCELED)

12. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The peptide according to claim 1, wherein said peptide is selected from the group consisting of the amino acid sequence PALKT [SEQ.ID.NO.:6], PSNST [SEQ.ID.NO.:8], ~~or~~ PPNTT [SEQ.ID.NO.:9], STPPNTT [SEQ.ID.NO.:17], APSNSTA [SEQ.ID.NO.:15], and SPALKTV [SEQ.ID.NO.:16].

13. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The peptide according to claim 2, said peptide having an A or V residue at the C terminus and/or an A, S, or T residue at the N

terminus.

14.-31. (CANCELED)

32. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The peptide according to claim 2, wherein said peptide is comprised of from ~~any one of to 30~~ 7 to 30 amino acids.

33.-34. (CANCELED)

35. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The peptide according to claim 1, wherein ~~as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 34 but not subject to the proviso of claim 1,~~ X^1, X^2, and X^3 may be the same or different, and each represents an amino acid residue, and wherein the peptide is linked to a polycationic nucleic acid-binding component.

36.-41. (CANCELED)

42. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The peptide ~~any one of 35 to 41~~ according to claim 35, wherein the peptide is linked to the polycationic nucleic acid-binding component via a spacer element.

43.-50. (CANCELED)

51. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A non-viral transfection mixture comprising:

(i) a lipid component,

(ii) a polycationic nucleic acid-binding component, and

(iii) a peptide ~~as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 34, which peptide is not subject to the proviso of claim 1~~ comprising the amino acid sequence $PX^1X^2X^3T$ [SEQ.ID.NO.:1], wherein X^1, X^2, and X^3 may be the same or different, and each represents an amino acid residue.

52.-53. (CANCELED)

54. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The mixture ~~any one of s 51 to 53~~ according to claim 51, wherein the lipid component comprises one or more lipids selected from the group consisting of cationic lipids, lipids having membrane destabilising

properties, and lipids having fusogenic properties.

55.-64. (CANCELED)

65. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A non-viral transfection complex comprising:

(i) a nucleic acid,

(ii) a lipid component,

(iii) a polycationic nucleic acid-binding component, and

(iv) a peptide ~~as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 34, which peptide is not subject to the proviso of claim 1.~~ comprising the amino acid sequence $PX^1X^2X^3T$ [SEQ.ID.NO.:1], wherein X^1, X^2, and X^3 may be the same or different, and each represents an amino acid residue.

66.-75. (CANCELED)

76. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A process for the production of a complex ~~any one of s 65 to 73~~ according to claim 65, which comprises admixing components (i), (ii), (iii) and (iv) in the following order: lipid component, peptide, polycationic nucleic acid binding component, and nucleic acid.

77.-79. (CANCELED)

80. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A non-viral transfection complex comprising:

(i) a nucleic acid,

(ii) a polycationic nucleic acid-binding component, and

(iii) a peptide ~~as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 34, which peptide is not subject to the proviso of claim 1.~~ comprising the amino acid sequence $PX^1X^2X^3T$ [SEQ.ID.NO.:1] wherein X^1, X^2, and X^3 may be the same or different, and each represents an amino acid residue.

81.-83. (CANCELED)

84. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A viral vector including a nucleic acid sequence encoding the peptide according to claim 1.

85.-96. (CANCELED)

97. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of transfecting a cell with a nucleic acid, which method comprises contacting the cell *in vitro* or *in vivo* with the transfection complex according to claim 65 or claim 80, or a viral vector according to claim 84 ~~as claimed in any one of claims65 to 75, 79 to 81 and 83 to 96 claim 12.~~

98. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A pharmaceutical composition comprising the transfection complex according to claim 65 or claim 80 or a viral vector ~~in any one of s 65 to 75, 79 to 81 and 83 to 96~~ according to claim 84, said composition being in admixture or conjunction with a pharmaceutically suitable carrier.

99. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for the treatment or prophylaxis of a condition caused in human or in a non-human animal by a defect and/or a deficiency in a gene, which method comprises administering the transfection complex according to claim 65 or claim 80 or viral vector ~~any one of claims 65 to 75, 79 to 81 and 83 to 96~~ according to claim 84 to the human or to the non-human animal.

100. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for the therapeutic or prophylactic immunisation of a human or of a non-human animal, which method comprises administering the transfection complex according to claim 65 or claim 80 or the viral vector ~~any one of 65 to 75, 79 to 81 and 83 to 96~~ according to claim 84 to the human or to the non-human animal.

101. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of anti-sense therapy, which method comprises administering the transfection complex according to claim 65 or claim 80 or the viral vector ~~any one of 65 to 75, 79 to 81 and 83 to 96~~ according to claim 84 to a human or to a non-human animal.

102.-104. (CANCELED)

105. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A kit comprising:

(i) a nucleic acid,

(ii) a polycationic nucleic acid-binding component, and

(iii) a peptide ~~any one of claims 1 to 34, which peptide is not subject to the proviso of claim 1.~~ comprising the amino acid sequence $PX^1X^2X^3T$ [SEQ.ID.NO.:1], wherein X^1, X^2, and X^3 may be the same or different, and each represents an amino acid residue, and, optionally,

(iv) a lipid component.

106. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A bispecific antibody that is capable of binding to a virus and to the peptide ~~any one of to 34~~ according to claim 1.

107. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A fusion protein comprising a peptide ~~as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 34, which peptide is not subject to the proviso of claim 1~~ comprising the amino acid sequence $PX^1X^2X^3T$ [SEQ.ID.NO.:1], wherein X^1, X^2, and X^3 may be the same or different, and each represents an amino acid residue, and an antibody that is capable of binding to a virus.

108.-109. (CANCELED)